

Asara Wine Estate

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GPS; S33°56'35.0"E18°48'31.0"

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Owner(s): M & C Rahmann

Winemaker(s): Johan Joubert WO; Western Cape

Impressive and large estate, comprising Hotel, restaurant, café etc, manicured gardens and lovely tree lined approach.



Vintage Score best drinking

MCC Brut

RRR

2015: bright lemon apple nose, hints of yeasty lees.

2015 84 2015-2024

Big mousse, brief and refreshing.

2016: very dry, with light and pleasant lemony youth,

2016 85 2016-2025

gentle but nicely balanced if rather brief.

Classic Sauvignon Blanc/Chardonnay (was Ivory)

R

2011: grapefruit citrus nose, mid weight with

2011 84 2011-2015

zesty acidity. Lots of pleasing green fruit.

2012: lightly fruited with Sauvignon led citrus

2012 80 2012-2017

and Chardonnay rather damping its exuberance.

Sauvignon Blanc

RR

2011: reserved nose, zippy gooseberry and

2011 85 2011-2018

kiwi flavours. Clean and uncomplicated.

2017: green citrus nose, touch watery, classic

2017 83 2017-2024

Asparagus notes, nice texture.

2018: yellow fruited, flinty and dry with fresh notes,

2018 83 2018-2025

not too brisk and somewhat muted.

Chardonnay Unwooded

RR

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|---|------|----|-----------|
| | 2008 | 75 | 2008-2011 |
| 2011: clean, light nose, tropical notes with nice lees weight, lemony and enjoyable. | 2011 | 86 | 2011-2017 |

Chardonnay

RR

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|--|------|----|-----------|
| | 2008 | 90 | 2009-2014 |
| 2011: oaky, sweet nose all vanilla and marmalade, then a rich, full body and layers of tropical flavours. Very nice. | 2011 | 90 | 2011-2018 |
| 2015: hint of wood, lots of pear and summer fruit, herbs and creamy finish. | 2015 | 84 | 2015-2024 |
| 2016: shy nose and fuller, creamy palate with softened acidity and waxy yellow fruits. Rather fleeting. | 2016 | 85 | 2016-2024 |
| 2018: pale and tinged, with lemon and white pear fruit, hint of wood and creamy mouthfeel, nicely fresh and lively. | 2018 | 87 | 2018-2027 |

Chenin Blanc

RR

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| 2016: tangy, yellow stone fruited, just mid weight with gentle attack and hint of tropical fruit, straightforward. | 2016 | 85 | 2016-2024 |
| 2017: crisp green apple, opens on palate with a savoury bite, tropical hints and good weight. | 2017 | 84 | 2017-2025 |
| 2019: lots of bite and crunch with nice textured body, tangy yellow fruits, oats and pear, rather brief. | 2019 | 89 | 2020-2028 |

Granite Chenin Blanc

RRR

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| 2018: shiny straw-gold then full bodied, unctuous | 2018 | 93 | 2020-2028 |
|---|------|----|-----------|

and rich, with stone fruits, quince, peach and lip smacking flinty minerality. Lovely.

Amphora Chenin Blanc

RRR

2018: pale straw with a deceptively light nose, a fuller body with lees depths, layered yet nimble and poised throughout.

2018 92 2019-2028

Ivory

R

2015: pale and shy, but explodes in the mouth with soft and full fruit, floral, nutty and fruity with a delicious finish. Tremendous value.

2015 86 2015-2024

Pinotage Rosé

RR

2012: delicate pink hue, lovely red berry nose then more weight than expected, good fruit, some Pinotage bite and dry. One of the better Rosé's

2012 87 2012-2018

2017: pale tinge, not pink and very dry with juicy strawberry and red berry flavours, vivid, lively and easy.

2017 85 2017-2025

2018: very pale pink, gentle, dry fruit, lighter style, rather lacking in punch and personality.

2018 84 2018-2026

White Cabernet Sauvignon (was Cabernet Sauvignon Blanc)

RR

2011: musky, indistinct nose, then unique mixed palate, impossible to define but with crisp acidity. An acquired taste.

2009 80 2009-2012

2011 84 2011-2017

2017: quite pale, dry and assertive, with herbs and berry notes and strangely tropical and stone fruit hints.

2017 83 2017-2024

Nouveau R

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| 2012: classic carbonic bubblegum nose, fruit forward and overt and juicy, supple flavours. Great fun. | 2012 | 86 | 2012-2018 |
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Gamay Noir RRR

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| 2018: overt juicy nose, whole bunch fruitiness, zippy and clean, with red berry and cherry notes, just medium bodied. | 2018 | 89 | 2019-2028 |
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Ebony R

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| 2010: mid purple hue, soft sweet berry nose then grippy flavours of spice and savoury tannins. Deceptive and enjoyable. | 2010 | 86 | 2010-2018 |
|--|-------------|-----------|------------------|

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| 2014: mid depth, lozenge-like fruit, dark spicy and forward, big and assertive but most enjoyable. | 2014 | 84 | 2014-2024 |
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Cape Fusion Red RR

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| 2009: mid ruby, leafy plum – a touch green. Acid lift with a lean, sinewy body. | 2009 | 84 | 2009-2018 |
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| 2015: accessible and generous, with purple fruits, soft and gentle tannins and all blue berries. | 2015 | 85 | 2016-2026 |
|---|-------------|-----------|------------------|

Merlot RR

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| 2009: subtle nose contradicts its overt palate, big bold delicious fruit, lovely oak, balanced and long. | 2009 | 90 | 2010-2019 |
|---|-------------|-----------|------------------|

2011: dark, mocha fruit with dry finish and a touch astringent behind strong flavours.

2011 88 2011-2020

2015: dusty red fruits, bitter raspberry, herbs and wood, mint hint and lingering.

2015 88 2016-2026

2017: deeply hued with mixed berry rustic fruit, juicy mid then a dry finish, pleasant if unmemorable.

2017 86 2017-2026

Petit Verdot

RR

2011: mid depth, little sign of aging, plums, lilac and supportive tannins. No greenness and nicely balanced.

2011 89 2012-2024

Pinotage

RR

2017: rich, glossy purple, lush cherry and currant blue fruited, not overly structured or complex but smooth and delicious.

2017 91 2018-2027

2018: tactile and almost sinewy, with forward wood grippy tannins, dry dark chocolate and forest berry flavours.

2018 88 2019-2027

Passione Pinotage

RRR

2018: glossy hued and with bright blue fruits, fresh and ripe then lush squashed mulberries and cassis, elegant, layered and complex, very fine indeed.

2018 93 2020-2030

Red Cab

RR

2015: pale ruby, dry tangy bite, opens in mouth to soft blue fruits, supple and easy.

2015 84 2015-2025

Cabernet Sauvignon

RR

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|---|--------------------------|
| | 2003 91 2005-2015 |
| 2009: deep ruby, soft, sweet black fruits and chewy cedar oak. Dry tannins and a meaty, long and very nice finish. | 2009 88 2009-2019 |
| 2014: quite pale and light depth, but serious nose, cassis and oak, ripe and forward, smooth and seductive. | 2014 88 2015-2025 |
| 2015: very deep and with a silky fruit nose and even richer smooth cassis and cedar fruit palate, very nice. | 2015 91 2017-2027 |
| 2017: zesty and lively with bright blue fruits, not too dry but finishing ripe and easy if light. | 2017 88 2018-2027 |
| 2018: rich, seductive nose, violets and plums, young grippy tannins and a full, clean and fresh palate. Very nice. | 2018 90 2020-2029 |

Shiraz

RR

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| | 2005 91 2007-2017 |
| 2009: mint and leather nose, mouth filling and overt, all sweet peppery leafiness. | 2009 89 2010-2019 |
| 2015: ruby garnet hue, big flavours, lots of mint and forest fruits, wood and grippy tannins. | 2015 88 2016-2026 |
| 2018: medium depth and weight, with generous soft dark berry fruits, hint of black pepper and a cosy rustic feel. | 2018 88 2019-2028 |

Bell Tower Estate

RRR

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| | 2004 91 2006-2014 |
| 2007: black fruits and subtle oak nose then smooth and elegant mouth feel. Lush dark fruit from Malbec with great balance, plummy and muscular. | 2007 90 2007-2019 |
| 2012: deep brooding nose, mid weight, full fruited with spice and blue berries, finishes gently, quite long. | 2012 91 2014-2025 |

2013: wood tannins on the nose but dominant velvety dark fruit richness on the palate, dry, spicy with pleasant bramble hint.

2013 89 2015-2025

Avalon

RRRR

2008: hugely perfumed, totally exotic violets and liquorice then blueberry intensity on the palate. Layered, complex and explosive – should become sensational.

2008 94 2010-2022

2012: vivacious and forward, with lace tannins, layered rich fruit, sumptuous and compelling, very expressive and lingers so.

2012 93 2014-2025

Vine Dried Sauvignon Blanc

RR

2014: unctuous and seductive, classic dried fruit richness but not sticky and nicely balanced.

2014 89 2014-2026

Carillon Noble Late Harvest (was NLH) 375ml

RRR

2010: deep gold, heavy marmalade quince nose then orange peel savoury opulence. Delicious.

2004 92 2006-2018

2010 92 2012-2024

2014: light gold, plump and alluring but retaining freshness and doesn't cloy, honey, apricot, wax, quite classic and delicious.

2014 92 2014-2026